

TLG-0004 (contd); TLG-0005

3

1 I'm hard pressed to see how that can
2 give an accurate picture of what's actually
3 leaching through the ground and into the
4 environment.

5 Because as we know, much of this
6 waste has a lifespan that extends many, even
7 hundreds, of generations from today. And we
8 have to look at this from a really long-term
9 perspective that we don't have to examine some
10 of our other concerns. Thank you.

11 MR. DEE WILLIS: Sandra Roth.

12 **TLG-0005** MS. SANDRA ROTH: Sandra Roth.
13 I'm going to keep it real short. I haven't had
14 a chance at all to see the EIS.

15 Shelley and I work together every
16 day. And I've heard tons of information about
17 it, so I'm here to speak.

1

18 I just want to let you know, Hanford
19 has enough. It's got so much stuff up there
20 and we can't deal with what we have. And why
21 are we adding more?

22 And after hearing this on a
23 day-to-day saga, I can tell you that we need to
24 deal with what we have.

25 MR. DEE WILLIS: Owen Kenton.

32

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TLG-0006

1 **TLG-0006** MR. OWEN KENTON: Hi. My name
2 is Owen Kenton. And I'm Sandy's son. And I
3 found out about this meeting tonight at
4 dinner time and I felt that I needed to come
5 and voice my opinion on this.

6 And there was a few things that I
7 felt I needed to hit on. Which was, first, is
8 that we need to deal with the problem that we
9 have already, before we start adding to this
10 problem, because it's just going to build up
11 and build up until our next generations are
12 going to be forced to deal with our problems
13 that we can deal with now by starting to learn.

14 The second is that La Grande has two
15 of the worst passes in the country right next
16 to us. And that we're going to be shipping
17 these trucks over it.

18 And even though there's a low
19 accident rate, if an accident occurs around
20 people and a truck breaks open, there's going
21 to be harm from it. There's no stopping it.

22 The last thing that I'd like to
23 point out is that we need to find different
24 methods of storing this nuclear waste at the
25 facility, because it's sitting on a patch of

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TLG-0006 (contd); TLG-0007

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1 columnar basalt, which most of you know.

2 And that columnar basalt does not
3 stop nuclear waste from going straight down in
4 the groundwater, which it's continuing to do,
5 if we bring in more nuclear wastes. Thank you.

6 MR. DEE WILLIS: Richard
7 Kenton.

8 **TLG-0007** MR. RICHARD KENTON: My name is
9 Richard Kenton. The last of the clan to speak
10 tonight. The first comment is the notice for
11 this meeting was extremely short and left a lot
12 of people unprepared, especially myself, so I'm
13 going to ramble.

14 Today in Seattle, they spend about
15 \$16 million on a drill, a drill, folks, dealing
16 with a simulated dirty bomb.

17 A dirty bomb is where you take --
18 put your nuclear waste, and you blast it into
19 the atmosphere.

20 Quickly jump from there to
21 La Grande. Let's talk about the weather
22 conditions here. Let's talk about how the
23 atmosphere moves through this valley in the
24 winter months, when -- that's the time you're
25 most likely to have an accident here.

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TLG-0007 (contd)

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1 The passes are horrible. The
2 driving conditions are horrible. Things change
3 at a moments notice, leaving truckers quite
4 unprepared to deal with the situation.

5 We have truckers that are driving
6 around with, well, possibly diminished mental
7 faculties. But definitely not the knowledge
8 that those of us that live here have of the
9 conditions and the potential for icing,
10 et cetera, on the road.

11 Let me collect my thoughts here real
12 quick. We have situations here in the valley
13 where the wind blows hard enough to blow a
14 railroad freight train and blow cars off of a
15 freight train, off the tracks. Blow them
16 completely off the tracks.

17 It's a documented fact here in the
18 valley that that has occurred. Trucks
19 frequently flip over, blow over, slide off the
20 road on ice.

21 I spend a lot of time on I-84. I've
22 watched the way people drive. I watch the way
23 truckers drive. 1984, '85, I was coming
24 through Ladd Canyon in a blinding snowstorm,
25 and was going down through there with a large

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TLG-0007 (contd)

1

1 semitruck, large cask of some sort, highly
2 reinforced with a radioactive placard.

3 I was driving a four-wheel drive
4 vehicle, studs all the way around. The vehicle
5 that was next to me was driving slick, no
6 chains.

7 And the truck slid toward me on the
8 highway. I was able to make it around, off the
9 shoulder, back on to the highway. If I had
10 been trapped under that, I would have gotten a
11 nice lethal dose I'm sure.

12 I don't like radiation. It's a part
13 of life, but I don't need added radiation added
14 to my life.

15 Right now the speed limit is 55.
16 Truckdrivers on this highway drive, you know, a
17 little bit more than that, 60 to 75 miles an
18 hour.

19 In Salem right now, this part isn't
20 in the EIS, in Salem right now they're talking
21 about bumping up the speed limit. They bump up
22 the speed limit to 70 miles an hour, what are
23 the truckers going to drive then?

24 The numbers have been crunched,
25 accident levels are shown, low risk, but

TLG-0007 (contd); TLG-0008

1

1 there's always Murphy out there.

2 And Murphy says that, you know, he's
3 the worst possible time, worst possible things
4 can happen. Rollover, Ladd Canyon, high winds,
5 you have basically a dirty bomb going off.
6 Thank you.

7 MR. DEE WILLIS: Norm Cimon.

8 **TLG-0008** MR. NORM CIMON: Thank you. My
9 name is Norm Cimon, and I live here in
10 La Grande. I'm going to sort of echo some of
11 the comments I've heard already.

1

12 The idea of lining the trenches is
13 certainly a big advance, especially from
14 professional scientists. It seems to at least
15 indicate that we've left the primitive stages
16 behind.

17 It seems to me that given the
18 geology of that part of the world, it really is
19 one of the solutions. So thank you for that.

20 As I mentioned the first time I gave
21 comment, the first time you came through with
22 the really poor piece of work before, the risk
23 analysis was a huge flaw. And to my mind it
24 still is something that greatly weakens the
25 document as a whole.

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TLG-0008 (contd)

1 I'd echo Gerry's comments here that
2 the whole idea of having a model that is sort
3 of a very sophisticated piece of probabilistic
4 work and then filling it with assumptions that
5 are back of the envelope in terms of the
6 probability distributions themselves just makes
7 no sense. But that is, in fact, what we have
8 here.

9 At this stage, we can get highway
10 specific rates, accident rates. And I don't
11 understand why those are not factored in.

12 I also have deepening concerns about
13 the crisis that states' bridges now find
14 themselves in. And while I respect Ken's
15 opinion greatly, it does worry me to no end
16 that we will see some of sort of worst-case
17 scenario where we have these truckloads somehow
18 finding their way into our small towns and some
19 sort of episode that leads to a lot of
20 recriminations and a lot of bitterness.

21 I know that people will try to do
22 thier best, but I don't see that shipping
23 high-level wastes and transuranics to a place
24 that already has its problems dealing with what
25 we currently have is going to make any of this

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TLG-0008 (contd); TLG-0009

2 |

1 better.

3 |

2 Again, I think the real weak point
3 in the EIS at this point is the probability
4 distributions associated with the risk
5 analysis.

6 They should be highway specific.
7 They should be specific to the terrain they're
8 going to be going through. And they should
9 also take into account the potential for
10 worst-case scenarios where we actually dump
11 stuff into our rivers.

12 I have lots of photos I can show you
13 of trucks hanging over rivers in the middle of
14 winter out here. Thank you very much.

15 MR. DEE WILLIS: Wayne Kinney.

16 **TLG-0009** MR. WAYNE KINNEY: Hi, I'm
17 Wayne Kinney. I work for Senator Wyden. And I
18 live and work here in La Grande.

19 And I've got a statement from the
20 Senator. It deals with the EIS and also with
21 general Hanford stuff.

1 |

22 "It doesn't matter how many new
23 plans the Energy Department comes up with or
24 what they call them. Oregonians will simply
25 not accept any plan that leaves waste in the

TLG-0009 (contd)

1 | 1 Hanford tanks.

2 | 2 "Oregonians don't want to add to the

3 | 3 waste that is already leaking into the

4 | 4 Columbia, and Oregonians will not accept a plan

5 | 5 that calls waste by another name to enable it

6 | 6 to be trucked down Oregon freeways.

7 | 7 "At the scoping hearings held in

8 | 8 this Solid Waste Environmental Impact Statement

9 | 9 of February, I and other Oregonians urged the

4 | 10 Department of Energy to keep working to vitrify

11 | 11 all of the wastes in the tanks at Hanford.

12 | 12 "I reminded the DOE that it made a

13 | 13 commitment in 1997 to vitrify all of the wastes

14 | 14 in the tanks. And I told the Department that

15 | 15 keeping that promise was important to

16 | 16 Oregonians.

17 | 17 "I also noted that some Hanford

18 | 18 officials seemed to be acting as though a

19 | 19 decision on the tank waste had already been

20 | 20 reached and asked DOE officials to make sure

21 | 21 that Oregonians and other residents of the

22 | 22 Northwest weren't presented with a fait

23 | 23 accompli.

5 | 24 "This hearing process, I wrote in

25 | 25 February, should not be a sham exercise

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TLG-0009 (contd)

5

1 undertaken solely to fulfill the letter of the
2 law.

3 "But DOE officials are still acting
4 as though this decision was reached long before
5 the public hearing process was reopened.

6 "At budget hearings held last month,
7 these officials talked about changes in the
8 plan for the tank wastes and talked about the
9 impact on future budgets.

6

10 "That new plan for the vitrification
11 plant was announced last week, just a few days
12 before giving the people of Pacific Northwest a
13 chance to comment in these hearings and well
14 before the record of decision is finalized.

7

15 "DOE officials also, for the first
16 time since the tri-party agreement was signed,
17 refused to grant a very reasonable request to
18 extend the comment deadline.

8

19 "During the budget hearings, a DOE
20 official said that one of the biggest problems
21 his Department faced was credibility.

22 "But when the DOE acts as if this
23 decision has already been made, it's bound to
24 have credibility problems.

25 "When the DOE proposes a plan that

TLG-0009 (contd)

8

1 the Washington Department of Ecology believes
2 will leave waste in the tanks, it's bound to
3 have credibility problems.

4 "When the DOE proposes a plan that
5 renames tank waste so it can be pumped on to
6 trucks, it's bound to have credibility
7 problems.

8 "When the DOE refuses to extend a
9 routine request to extend the comment deadline,
10 it's bound to have credibility problems.

11 "When the DOE lets contracts that
12 don't allow Ecology and the EPA to monitor
13 progress on cleanup, it's bound to have
14 credibility problems.

15 "When the DOE reaches an agreement
16 on transuranic waste shipments and breaks it
17 within months, it's bound to have credibility
18 problems.

19 "When the DOE takes actions that can
20 be fairly interpreted as attempts to weaken or
21 break the tri-party agreement, it's bound to
22 have credibility problems.

9

23 "As I wrote in February, the
24 Department of Energy is spending a great deal
25 of time trying to avoid the commitment it made

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TLG-0009 (contd)

9

1 to us back in 1997.

2 "Oregonians want the DOE to live up
3 to its commitments and move forward with the
4 task of eliminating the high-level tank --
5 wastes in the tanks. Vitrification was the
6 best decision then, it's the best decision now.

7 "In a recent statement, Richland
8 operation manager Keith Klein stated the
9 following, and I quote, 'The Department's job
10 is to clean up waste and take the necessary
11 steps to ensure the job is done in a safe and
12 effective manner in accordance to all the
13 applicable laws.' I could not agree more.

14 "When the Congress appropriates
15 funds for the Department of Energy and the
16 Hanford Nuclear Reservation, it expects those
17 funds to be used for cleanup and not for a
18 lawyer's full employment program.

19 "It's time for the DOE to stop
20 fudging on its commitments, stop trying to
21 weaken the TPA and start getting back to the
22 job that Oregonians and all Americans are
23 paying them to do. Thank you."

24 MR. DEE WILLIS: Okay. Does
25 anybody else have any formal comments at this

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Panel Discussion

1 point? You'll have a chance later. All right.

2 What I want to do now is move to a
3 different or more informal format, invite --
4 let's turn some chairs around up here, invite
5 the following people to come up, if you wish,
6 to respond to questions from this audience.

7 That would be Mike Barry from the
8 Oregon Department of Transportation. Mike,
9 Ken, Gerry, Shelley. Did I miss anybody?

10 If there are questions for Dennis,
11 he'll answer them, but he's not going to come
12 up.

13 So here's what I'd like to do: If
14 you have a question for any of those people,
15 raise your hand. I'll recognize you. You ask
16 the question.

17 And then I want you to let these
18 people discuss the answer among themselves.
19 Let them have a discussion about it, okay. Any
20 questions about this format?

21 Okay, first question, this gentleman
22 here. And what I'd like to do is for you to
23 speak into the mike and tell us your name.

24 MR. BILL OBERTEUFFER: Thank
25 you. Bill Oberteuffer from Island City. And

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 I'd like to ask a question of the gentleman
2 from Heart of America Northwest, and I can't
3 remember your name, I'm sorry.

4 MR. GERRY POLLET: Gerry
5 Pollet.

6 MR. BILL OBERTEUFFER: Gerry.
7 What plans do you have, or what plans does your
8 organization have, for keeping more waste out
9 of Hanford?

10 MR. DEE WILLIS: Would you
11 spell your last name, please?

12 MR. BILL OBERTEUFFER: You
13 spell it just like it sounds.
14 O-B-E-R-T-E-U-F-F-E-R.

15 MR. DEE WILLIS: Just like it
16 sounds.

17 MR. GERRY POLLET: Bill, there
18 is the possibility of endless lawsuits, as
19 those people who are members of ours know, that
20 we urged the state of Washington to sue to stop
21 these transuranic waste shipments, these
22 plutonium waste shipments.

23 And we, along with three other
24 citizen groups filed suit. In the course of
25 doing that -- and one of the reasons that led

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 to it is that DOE is not exactly up front about
 2 giving you the information you need -- and
 3 through the Freedom of Information Act, we
 4 discovered things like a document that said we
 5 have to keep the stakeholders in the state of
 6 Washington from learning about these shipments.

7 That was December 2001. Documents
 8 from senior Hanford officials saying we have to
 9 keep plans about these shipments, quote, "in
 10 this room," unquote.

11 And plans to, quote, "make receipt
 12 of remote-handled transuranic wastes" at
 13 Hanford, quote, "a higher priority," unquote,
 14 than Hanford cleanup work.

15 So going to court is one option.
 16 This EIS, it's not adequate and it won't pass
 17 muster right now to allow them to start the
 18 next round of shipments that they want to ship
 19 after August 1st. That's why they don't want
 20 to extend the comment period, you see.

21 They've already announced, and Mike
 22 can respond to this if he disagrees with it,
 23 but they've announced that they're going to
 24 issue a decision by August 1st so that they can
 25 start the floodgates opening, and up to a

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 million cubic feet a year, that's a five-fold
2 increase of waste imports.

3 So the next step is on the other
4 side of the border in Washington state, we'll
5 be talking about this public hearing in
6 Seattle.

7 We will be making an announcement
8 about a state-wide ballot initiative that will
9 stop Hanford from becoming a national
10 radioactive waste dump.

11 I'm also proud to say that
12 Senator Wyden, several members of Congress from
13 Oregon and Washington, have agreed that they
14 will be pushing legislation to stop the dumping
15 of radioactive waste in these unlined burial
16 grounds.

17 You know, we've talked about it.
18 But you need to see it to believe it. This
19 looks like Iraq from what you were saying
20 earlier.

21 This is the smallest, I believe, of
22 Hanford's unlined burial grounds. This is how
23 they dump waste today, no liner.

24 You can't dump your kitchen garbage
25 in an unlined trench. This is a quote from,

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 I'm borrowing from Senator Wyden, actually,
2 "you can't dump your municipal garbage in
3 unlined ditches, it's against the law."

4 The Department of Energy is dumping
5 200,000 cubic feet a year. Enough to cover
6 13 football fields, a foot deep, of imported
7 radioactive wastes in unlined ditches,
8 poisoning the groundwater and Columbia River.

9 We know it's spreading
10 contamination. And that's going to continue
11 for untold years. We've just stopped that this
12 year.

13 And so we're looking at federal
14 legislation and we're looking at state
15 legislation to stop it. And, of course, we'll
16 probably have to challenge this EIS.

17 We will have a court date, a full
18 trial, which looks right now like slam dunk
19 stuff, transuranic waste, if they don't revise
20 this EIS.

21 MR. DEE WILLIS: I assume that
22 Gerry responded to your question.

23 MR. BILL OBERTEUFFER: Thank
24 you.

25 MR. DEE WILLIS: Does anybody

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 else on the panel have a response either to
2 Bill or to Gerry at this point?

3 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Just a
4 few things. Gerry's right. It's actually
5 July 31st is the date we're shooting for for
6 issuing the decision.

7 There are other pictures of
8 low-level burial grounds and mixed low-level
9 waste burial grounds, some of which are lined,
10 some of which are not. There's pictures back
11 there.

12 Gerry is right, though. Our current
13 practice for low-level waste is disposal in
14 unlined trenches.

15 MR. DEE WILLIS: Any of the
16 others, comments? Okay, next question. Sir,
17 name first.

18 MR. RICHARD KENTON: My name is
19 Richard Kenton. That's K-E-N-T-O-N. Just like
20 it sounds.

21 For Ken. You mentioned that there's
22 training for local response groups. My
23 question is: Who's paying the bill?

24 MR. KEN NILES: The bill is
25 being paid for in two respects. We have a --

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 on all the trucks that ship radioactive
2 materials through the state, they require a
3 placard. The ones that have enough quantity to
4 require the radioactive placard on the truck.

5 They pay a fee to the state of
6 Oregon. It's relatively inexpensive. It's \$70
7 a truck. And that goes into a fund that we
8 manage. That goes exclusively for training of
9 emergency responders and equipment.

10 We also get funds from the Western
11 Governors Association that originated with the
12 U.S. Department of Energy, that also provides
13 for training and equipment.

14 MR. DEE WILLIS: Anybody else
15 on the panel?

16 Next question, ma'am.

17 MS. TERESA BRAIN: My name's
18 Teresa Brain, B-R-A-I-N. And my question is to
19 whomever can answer it. And this seems like
20 such a huge document about such an important
21 issue, can you explain the short comment
22 period?

23 Why aren't we taking the time that
24 we need to process this to understand what
25 we're going to make? And these are such

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 long-term decisions that we're making.

2 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: The
3 decision that DOE made is largely based on the
4 familiarity of people through the first go
5 round, the familiarity with the major issues.

6 That's the main reason, familiarity
7 with the document and the subjects that are
8 surrounded.

9 MR. DEE WILLIS: Anybody else?
10 Shelley?

11 MS. SHELLEY CIMON: I'll speak
12 to that. Thanks. I'm pretty discouraged
13 because, you know, besides the Oregon Hanford
14 Waste Board, we also have a site specific
15 advisory board called the Hanford Advisory
16 Board.

17 We asked for an extension and have
18 not, as Ken said, seen an adequate response
19 where we're talking about a deadline of
20 May 27th for comments to be in.

21 My board -- of which I am vice chair
22 of the Site Specific Advisory Board, Gerry
23 Pollet's also on the Board -- we work by
24 consensus.

25 Our next meeting is the first week

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 of June. We received a letter from the head of
2 the site, Keith Klein, saying that they may or
3 may not honor the inclusion of our comments as
4 a full board.

5 Now, our board's been put together
6 specifically to speak to the issue of cleanup
7 and to support the decisions that EPA and the
8 Washington Department of Ecology and DOE make.
9 And this really flies in the face of the money
10 that's being spent to support the work that
11 we're doing.

12 That's not a satisfactory answer,
13 but that is the political setting right now.

14 MR. DEE WILLIS: Other panel
15 members?

16 MR. GERRY POLLET: Mike's
17 comment, I think, is kind of shocking. I have
18 not heard this rationale before, Mike.

19 But given the fact that the reason
20 you re-did the EIS is that the analysis was not
21 there. To say that we're familiar with it is
22 ludicrous, unless you only gave us the same
23 analysis that you'd already done, which you say
24 you didn't. And there certainly is new stuff
25 in here.

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 So, I mean, the response to comments
2 page is like five inches or something; that, in
3 itself, would take someone a month to read.

4 So I would urge you to go back and
5 tell your boss they'd better rethink it.
6 They'd better rethink it, because, you know,
7 that credibility gap is going to cause a storm
8 of public outrage.

9 MR. DEE WILLIS: Ms. Brain, did
10 you get your question answered?

11 MS. TERESA BRAIN: I did, thank
12 you.

13 MR. DEE WILLIS: Okay. Next
14 question.

15 MS. MAXINE HINES: I have like
16 six.

17 MR. DEE WILLIS: Give us two,
18 all right?

19 MS. MAXINE HINES: All right.
20 One hard one and one -- I'm Maxine Hines. I
21 live here in La Grande. I've been coming to
22 these meetings forever, for as long as Shelley
23 has.

24 I just want to always commend the
25 kids that come. Thank you, guys.

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 And we'll start with the simple one:
2 Are there any safe havens in this area that are
3 now accepting the trucks during bad weather?

4 MR. KEN NILES: As you all
5 know, the weather conditions can change pretty
6 quickly. And it's not always possible to
7 identify something well in advance where we'd
8 really prefer a truck to park.

9 Generally if a truck is caught
10 knowing it's heading into bad weather and does
11 need to park in this area, they usually do park
12 at the truck stop.

13 If we're aware of a problem sooner,
14 we from the state level, and can get that
15 information, we would certainly stop them on
16 the other side of the hill. Better yet, we
17 would stop them from leaving Hanford.

18 But, you know, sometimes they end up
19 not where you'd like them to be. Absolutely.

20 MR. DEE WILLIS: Anybody else
21 on the panel? Next question, Ms. Hines.

22 MS. MAXINE HINES: One is, and
23 this one's kind of a long one I think, what
24 criteria has been established in the EIS on
25 who's sending what to Hanford, and why? Why is

Panel Discussion (contd)

1 it being accepted?

2 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Well, the
3 decision back in February of 2000, the
4 Department a decision that essentially opened
5 up Hanford to any other DOE generator of
6 low-level and mixed low-level waste.

7 MS. MAXINE HINES: So it's all
8 DOE?

9 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: There's
10 some navy waste too.

11 MS. MAXINE HINES: Private?

12 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: No. What
13 you'll see is you'll see some DOE-owned waste
14 and there's an ownership criteria. You'll see
15 some DOE-owned waste that is being generated at
16 private facilities.

17 For example, the Albany Research
18 Center, several years back, it did a lot of
19 research for DOE. But DOE owned the waste
20 itself. And so that came to Hanford.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is that
22 coming from New York or where?

23 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Albany,
24 Oregon.

25 MS. MAXINE HINES: And who's

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 paying for it --

2 MR. DEE WILLIS: Just one
3 second. This lady --

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just
5 wanted to know if it was New York or Oregon.

6 MR. DEE WILLIS: Keep going.

7 MS. MAXINE HINES: And who's
8 paying for it to come to Hanford?

9 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: Well, the
10 taxpayer first. The Department of Energy.

11 MR. DEE WILLIS: Anybody else
12 on the panel?

13 MS. SHELLEY CIMON: Do you want
14 to respond to that? I'll respond to that.

15 MR. KEN NILES: Let me just add
16 one additional bit of facts, I guess, is that I
17 mentioned this as well and some of you may not
18 be aware of, there is a commercial low-level
19 waste disposal site on land leased on the
20 Hanford site.

21 So there are trucks going from
22 11 western and Rocky Mountain states, from
23 commercial nuclear power plants, from
24 hospitals, from research centers, from medical
25 centers, from universities that generate

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 low-level radioactive waste, and they dispose
2 of their waste at Hanford as well.

3 On the Hanford side. It's land
4 leased from the Federal Government. It gets
5 confusing when you start trying to do all of
6 that.

7 There's 11 states that, through the
8 compact system, the national system, to try and
9 share equally somewhat the burden of handling
10 commercial low-level waste.

11 Again, that's 11 western and Rocky
12 Mountain states that can send waste to Hanford,
13 commercial waste.

14 California is not one of those, by
15 the way. Which would be a huge generator.

16 MR. DEE WILLIS: Shelley?

17 MS. SHELLEY CIMON: Yeah. I
18 guess I want to respond a little differently,
19 because I think Maxine's question is different.
20 And that is: Who pays for those 70,000-plus
21 shipments that come to Hanford.

22 What we, many stakeholders, asked
23 for in response to the first go round of the
24 EIS was that the site that generates the waste
25 pays for that waste to come to Hanford.

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 What we heard, in this document, is
2 that all waste belongs to DOE. So wherever the
3 money comes from, it's DOE money.

4 Of course, our concern at Hanford is
5 impacting our budgets; and thus, the cleanup
6 that needs to go on at this site.

7 MR. DEE WILLIS: Gerry?

8 MR. GERRY POLLET: Well, two
9 things, since we're on the record. One, I sure
10 would like an answer to your question in this
11 EIS, because it's a very good one.

12 I think Mike may be playing a game
13 with words here, because GE Vallenditos is a
14 privately-owned site.

15 Parks Township, Pennsylvania, which
16 generated a huge quantity of waste, was owned
17 by a private company. And the Department of
18 Energy entered into a private superfund cleanup
19 agreement, had a small liability.

20 And in order to lower the cost for
21 all the private companies, it offered to have
22 the waste shipped, for free, to Hanford. Large
23 quantity.

24 Battelle Columbus Lab is a
25 privately-run company that's generating

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 transuranic waste to be sent to Hanford.

2 And it may be under contract, DOE,
3 but they made a private cost-saving decision to
4 cancel their Part B Permit for RCRA hazardous
5 waste, so that they ship their waste to
6 Hanford.

7 And I'm quoting from DOE's own
8 document, it was a "private cost-saving
9 decision."

10 And there are many other
11 privately-owned sites that DOE's taking waste
12 from. Framptone, right next door to the
13 Hanford site is a private company that expects
14 to ship its transuranic waste to the Hanford
15 site, correct?

16 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: It is a
17 private company, that's correct.

18 MR. GERRY POLLET: Yeah. And
19 whether or not DOE did a contract with them,
20 essentially what it sounds like is DOE said,
21 "We'll take your waste instead of it going
22 through the commercial system."

23 And the difference is huge. One,
24 unregulated/regulated. Two, the difference is
25 if it's out of the region and it's private, it

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 can't come here to the commercial site. It has
2 to go to a commercial compact site.

3 Three, we're talking about who pays.
4 Well, DOE did a study that found that the
5 offsite generator typically pays less than
6 50 percent of the cost of disposal, none of the
7 long-term costs.

8 If you have to send your commercial
9 waste to the commercial disposal facility, you
10 pay dozens of times more per cubic foot because
11 you have to pay a long-term monitoring fee and
12 a closure fee to properly investigate and close
13 the facility and cap it.

14 All of that's going to come from the
15 Hanford cleanup budget in the future.

16 MR. DEE WILLIS: Mike, do you
17 have a response to that?

18 MR. MICHAEL COLLINS: A couple
19 of things. One, I'm not sure about how
20 ownership gets to be DOE ownership, so I'm not
21 going to challenge Gerry there.

22 With regard to cost, there's a
23 couple of things. One, DOE and all government
24 organizations are very -- don't respond to
25 economic incentives very well. It just doesn't

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Panel Discussion (contd)

1 happen.

2 So what DOE has done is they've put
3 together what's called a pollution prevention
4 and waste minimization program that does
5 significantly reduce the amount of waste
6 produced.

7 And I think ultimately if you could,
8 economically incentivise somebody to pay the
9 full cost, then you're right, you could
10 minimize waste.

11 But within DOE, you just can't do --
12 government organizations just don't respond
13 that way.

14 And then the other thing, we have
15 certain fixed costs that we would bear
16 regardless if we received waste or not.

17 That's the reason -- so we already
18 have these facilities in place and that's why
19 we only charge to generate -- offsite
20 generators, just the incremental cost for
21 actual disposal.

22 We also have an issue with
23 collecting future costs. Congress right now
24 doesn't allow us to essentially charge what's
25 called a tipping fee and save in it a bank for

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